

27 March 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with the Executive Director-Comptroller
23 March 1972, 1430-1500 hours, Concerning the
Historical Program
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PARTICIPANTS: [REDACTED] Chief, Operational Services and
Executive Secretary, CS Historical
Board

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1. Mr. [REDACTED] who had requested the meeting, explained that the DDP was continuing to receive requests from divisions and staffs to rehire annuitants on contract to write CS histories. In considering these the DDP needed some indication of Agency plans and policy for the historical program and policy with regard to rehiring annuitants for this program.

2. Mr. Colby explained that the future Agency and CS historical programs would of necessity be much smaller and more selective. Emphasis would be placed on recording major programs, operations, accomplishments, and functions of the Agency. Some of these, where they were of major dimensions and involved various elements and offices of the Agency, would be prepared at the Agency level. He cited the Agency role in Vietnam as a type of subject that would be handled at the Agency rather than at the CS level. These papers, as well as those written within the CS, should be true histories, prepared in a professional manner. Mr. Colby had little interest in office, station or organizational histories. A bare bones chronicle of major events and changes in these elements would suffice and this type of record could be assembled in a few weeks by a competent researcher. He envisaged that this type of record could be kept current by annual reports to be incorporated in the program call. He hoped that the various Agency and CS elements would be able to assemble these chronicles and annual reports without additional personnel.

3. Hiring of annuitants was not excluded by Mr. Colby. This should be preceded, however, by agreement as to what historical papers should be prepared. An annuitant might be employed if it could be demonstrated that he was singularly qualified to write a specific paper and if there were no currently employed personnel

available to undertake the task. There should be no more hiring of annuitants "as a favor to old Joe."

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4. Mr. [REDACTED] mentioned the CS reserve program to maintain contact with experienced retired officers who would be available in time of emergency need. Some of these officers may be peculiarly qualified for a particular history. These officers could be engaged on contract or a WAE basis. Mr. Colby saw no problem with rehiring such annuitants for a specific Agency need. He did not condone rehiring of annuitants solely for personal or compassionate reasons.

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5. Mr. [REDACTED] noted that Mr. Colby in his recent memo had not excluded organizational or station histories and inquired whether in some instances such histories might be considered. He mentioned as an example the possibility of engaging Mrs. [REDACTED] to write the [REDACTED] history. Mr. Colby said he would have no objection to writing up the [REDACTED], not as a chronicle of station developments but as an example of a certain type of field activity, such as the station's support of other area operations and programs.

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6. Mr. Colby agreed that the practice of accommodating surplus personnel in the historical program, regardless of their competence, should be avoided. With ceiling cuts there will be less surplus and management should be forced to find other solutions to placement problems. In the future there should be fewer histories and fewer but more competent writers. Mr. Colby did not specify how many historical projects should be planned except that it would be a considerably reduced number.

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7. It was agreed that Mr. [REDACTED] would consult the divisions and staffs and elicit their recommendations for historical projects under the new guidelines.

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8. In response to Mr. [REDACTED] query as to who would be replacing Professor Ehrmann as C/CIA/HS, Mr. Colby advised that [REDACTED] would be taking over. Professor Ehrmann will stay on for a month or two to do some editing, writing and re-writing.

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9. Mr. Colby noted that he had not yet received a response from the DDP to his memo on "Archives, History, and Records." He gave the impression that the program was not final and that he would consider recommendations.

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[REDACTED]
Executive Secretary
CS Historical Board